



## RHODE ISLAND

### DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

#### DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

235 Promenade Street, Room 370  
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

# Rabies Control Board Meeting

**Meeting Date:** November 9, 2015

**Board Member Attendees:** Scott Marshall, DVM, C.H. Hannafin, DVM, Tom Gulluscio, Kevin Breene

**Board Member Absent:** Scott Scofield, Utpala Bandy, MD, Charles Brown, (DEM Designee),

**Non-Board Attendees:** Catherine Monks for Amy Monks, Bette Stickney, Pamela Miller, Phil DaCosta, Amy Violett, Warwick ACO.

**Meeting called to order** at 10:30 AM by Dr. Marshall followed by roll call of all in attendance.  
Official business will take place at this meeting as quorum was met.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Variances

- 1. Variance Petition: Pamela Miller -** requested a variance for her dog Dreamer. The animal has been diagnosed with IMHA by Kaitlin Gelsomino, DVM from West Shore Animal Hospital. Ms. Miller has agreed to all the stipulations of the variance. Dr. Hannafin stated that titers are not accepted in this state and also explained the two levels of quarantine one if an animal was bit by a domestic animal and the difference if the animal is bit by wildlife. Ms. Miller also stated she has no other animals in the home.
- 2. Variance Petition: Robin Kulik –** requested a variance for her cat Rajah who has been diagnosed with Idopathic Hypercalcemia by her veterinarian Julie Mahaney, DVM. Her vaccine was expired for one year.
- 3. Variance Petition: Amy Monks –** requested a variance for their dog Dixon who was treated for IMHA in July of 2014. Kaitlin Gelsomino, DVM from West Shore Animal Hospital is her veterinarian. Catherine Monks appeared before the board in place of Amy Monks. Catherine stated that the dog is already microchipped and that there is 1 dog and 1 cat that are both vaccinated living in the home but, Dixon would be moving to Riverside.
- 4. Variance Petition: Bette Stickney** requested a variance for her dog, Olive, who is being treated for cholangitis/cholangio hepatitis – Dr. Kessler from Turco Animal Hospital is her veterinarian. A biopsy was done on the liver and the recommendation from her vet was not to vaccinate. She has agreed to have her dog microchipped and will notify us plus she let the board know that she has one cat that is vaccinated.

- 5. Variance Petition: Phillip DaCosta or Desislava Byanova** has requested a variance for their 5 ½ year old cat Lia who has severe reactions to vaccinations. Phil DaCosta attended the meeting and stated that the cat is microchipped, there are no other animals in the home, and that Lia is a house cat and does not go out. Tom Gulluscio discussed making sure the microchip is registered and also requested ACO's be notified of the approvals each time a variance is granted.

**Motion to approve:** – Scott Marshall DVM motion to approve issuance of the variances listed above seconded by Dr. Hannafin. All variance petitions above were unanimously approved.

- 6. Variance Petition: Catherine Guglielmo** – requested a variance for her two dogs who suffer from an undisclosed auto-immune disorder. A letter was received from her veterinarian, Sharon R. Doolittle, DVM, verifying the medical status of her dogs; however, before the meeting she withdrew her request for a variance. The board also received a letter from Pattie Watson, Barrington ACO, that Ms. Guglielmo's animal has been loose 8 times and that the house is up for sale.

Dr. Hannafin stated that Dr. Doolittle is a holistic veterinarian and has different types of treatments such as acupuncture. He also noted that auto immune diseases are well documented and are not difficult to diagnose so he feels more specifics on this case would be needed. The RCB reviewed the file which contained Vaccination Exemption Certificate from Dr. Doolittle, DVM. Tom Gulluscio stated she had no authority to issue this certificate and that it is very misleading. He suggested that the Rabies Control Board send a warning to Dr. Doolittle notifying her she has no authority to use the word exemption on her rabies certificate and that she cease and desist.

The Board resolved to send a warning letter to Dr. Doolittle from the Rabies Control Board along with a Rabies Variance Guidance.

**Motion to approved:** Tom Gulluscio motioned that all ACOs be notified of approved variances in their towns and second by Kevin Breene. The members voted unanimously to notify ACOs when a variance is issued for an animal that resides in their town.

**Motion to approve:** Minutes of the meeting for July 8, 2015 approved by Tom Gulluscio and second by Charlie Brown. Minutes were approved without amendment.

**NEXT MEETING** February 3, 2016 @ 10:30 AM – Conference Room 370A

**Motion to adjourn:** Dr. Hannafin motioned to adjourn - Kevin Breene second the motion.